(c) the action taken to provide for public-private partnership in this area?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism does not collect separate information on medical tourist traffic to India. The steps taken by the Government to promote medical tourism include promotion in overseas market through brochure, CDs, films and other publicity material.

Inauguration of Travel and Tourism Fair

2467. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Travel and Tourism Fair—a supermarket of tourism products with 150 participants, including 11 State Governments and six countries, was inaugurated in Bangalore in the Month of January, 2008;

(a) if so, whether the fair has participation from partner country Nepal, Egypt, Malaysia, etc.;

(b) if so, to what extent this fair has helped the participated countries;

(c) to what extent this fair has helped the States to increase the inflow of tourists; and

(d) whether any concrete proposals were also discussed on how to improve the increase of tourists' traffic between these countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The purpose of participation in such fairs is to have a visible and effective presence, to create awareness about tourism products and eventually attract tourists to the participating States/countries. However, no estimates are made about the increase in inflow of tourists on account of participation in such fairs.

Foreign tourists visiting India

2468. SHRI N.R. GOV1NDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranked only 42nd in international tourist arrivals in 2006 with 4.4 million visitors according to the World Tourism Organisation, while the highest number of tourist arrivals were in France with 80 millions with first place and China, with 50 million in the fourth place;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of better connectivity and the "Incredible India Campaign" the country failed to attract foreign tourists;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve the tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) As per the figures released by United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), the top 4 countries in the world in terms of international tourist arrivals in 2006 were as under:

Country	' International Tourist Arrivals in 2006 (in million)
France	79.1
Spain	58.5
USA	51.1
China	49.6

India, with foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) of 4.45 million in 2006, ranked 42nd in the world.

(c) to (e) India has been achieving consistently a high growth rate of 13.3%, 13.5% and 12.4% in FTAs in 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively due to various steps taken by the Government including the "Incredible India Campaign".

Some important steps taken to provide further impetus to the growth of FTAs in India includes the integrated development of tourist infrastructure at tourist circuits and destinations, growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels, augmentation of air capacity, enhancing availability of skilled manpower, according greater focus in emerging markets particularly in the regions of China, North-East Asia and South-East Asia and international publicity campaigns through the electronic and print media.

Development of tourism projects

2469. SHRI MAT1LAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects put forward by the States and Union Territories to develop tourism during the years, 2006-07 and 2007-08 in the respective States/Union Territories;

(b) how many of these projects are from the North-Eastem States; and

(c) the names of the projects sanctioned and funds released for North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SON1): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations themselves. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories for tourism projects on the basis of project proposals received from them in accordance with the scheme guidelines subject to availability of funds. During 2006-07,278 projects for Rs. 642.42 crore were sanctioned for all States/Union Territories. Out of these 73 projects for Rs. 145.70 crore were for North-Eastern States. During 2007-08,277 projects for Rs. 645.13 crore were sanctioned for all States/Union Territories. Out of these 86 projects for Rs. 174.69 crore were for North-Eastern States, Details of projects sanctioned during 2006-07 and 2007-08 for North-Eastern States are given in the Statement.